

# SCHACHTER CENTER FOR COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

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## **The Schachter Center for Complementary Medicine to Participate in National Institutes of Health TACT2 Research Trial**

***Second study will focus on benefits of removing toxic metal pollutants in patients with diabetes and a prior heart attack***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - Suffern, NY – March 8, 2017 – The Schachter Center for Complementary Medicine has been named a participating clinical site for the second Trial to Assess Chelation Therapy (TACT2). TACT2 will examine the use of intravenous chelation treatments in combination with oral vitamins in diabetic patients with a prior heart attack to determine if they reduce recurrent heart episodes, such as heart attacks, stroke, death, and others, by removing toxins from the blood.

Funding for TACT2 was announced in September of 2016 when The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded \$37M to initiate the trial. The trial is also co-funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Chelation is a process by which a medication, such as edetate disodium (Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA), can “grab” and remove toxic metal pollutants - like lead or cadmium - which are present in most individuals.

TACT2 follows up on the positive results of TACT, an NIH-sponsored multicenter, double-blind safety and efficacy study, which took place from 2002- 2012 and was conducted in 134 sites across the United States and Canada. During TACT, 1,708 heart attack patients were randomly assigned to receive 40 infusions of an edetate disodium-based chelation solution or a placebo (inactive) infusion. Patients also received an oral vitamin and mineral regimen, or an oral placebo.

TACT demonstrated an 18% reduction in recurrent heart events by chelation in patients who already had sustained a heart attack. Recurrent heart events measured in the study were death, heart attack, stroke, heart bypass or stent, and hospitalization for angina (chest pains). In 633 diabetic patients, there was an even larger benefit with a 41% reduction in recurrent heart events and a 43% reduction in deaths. Based on these results,

the Mount Sinai and Duke scientists who conducted the trial felt that a repeat study was important to carry out.

TACT2 will narrow its focus to the group with the greatest benefit in the original study - diabetic patients 50- years of age or older who have survived a prior heart attack.

The original TACT clinical results were published in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#) in 2013, [Circulation: Quality and Outcomes](#) in 2014, and the [American Heart Journal](#) in 2014.

“If TACT2 is positive, it will forever change the way we treat heart attack patients and view toxic metals in the environment,” said Gervasio Lamas, M.D., study chairman and chief of the Columbia Division of Cardiology at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Florida. “Therefore, with NIH support and in collaboration with the Duke Clinical Research Institute, Columbia University, New York University, Mount Sinai (NYC), and hundreds of physicians and nurses throughout the U.S. and Canada, we are moving forward with TACT2.”

“If the TACT2 trial results compare to those of the previous TACT1 trial, this may prove to be a valuable way to reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke in millions of Americans”, according to Dr. Michael B. Schachter. “It could change the way we treat heart disease.”

Although not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treating heart disease, some practitioners have used chelation therapy for nearly 60 years in the absence of clinical trial data supporting its use. Because of the lack of data, it has generally been believed by conventional medical practitioners and cardiologists to be without value, although TACT results suggest otherwise. A definitive answer on chelation therapy in diabetic patients that will be embraced by the cardiology community will require positive results from TACT2.

The Schachter Center is currently recruiting patients for participation in the study. Candidates must be 50 years of age or older, have diabetes and experienced a prior heart attack. Patients interesting in participating may contact the study team through [www.tact2.org](http://www.tact2.org), by calling 845-368-4700 or may contact Sally Minniefield, PA-C

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